



BLACK IS...

BOOKS ABOUT
THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Booklist for Adults • 2012

NONFICTION

Biography

Heat Wave:

The Life and Career of Ethel Waters

by Donald Bogle

Ethel Waters – the noted vaudevillian, blues and jazz singer, and actress – led a life full of stories that should be told.

ML420.W24B64 2011

Ice: A Memoir of Gangster Life

and Redemption: from South Central to Hollywood

by Ice-T and Douglas Century

The journey of the controversial rapper and actor is told in this autobiography.

ML420.I3A3 2011

Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention

by Manning Marable

This acclaimed and comprehensive biography of Malcolm X leads to a deeper understanding of the man.

BP223.Z8L57636 2011

My Song: A Memoir

by Harry Belafonte

with Michael Shnayerson

The noted singer, actor, and social activist tells of those he tried to help, and those who helped him along the way.

ML420.B32A3 2011

Phillis Wheatley:

Biography of a Genius in Bondage

by Vincent Carretta

This is the first full biography of the early Boston slave poet.

PS866.W5Z5827 2011

A Reason to Believe:

Lessons from an Improbable Life

by Deval Patrick

The governor of Massachusetts shares touching and personal stories from his childhood in Chicago to the present.

F71.22.P37A3 2011

Shaq Uncut: My Story

by Shaquille O'Neal

The college All-American, Olympian, four-time NBA champion, and former Boston Celtic offers stories and advice.

GV884.O54A3 2011

Sojourner Truth: A Biography

by Larry G. Murphy

Born in 1797 into slavery, Sojourner Truth was one of the most famous abolitionists and women's rights reformers of all time.

E185.97.T8M87 2011

What a Wonderful World: The Magic of Louis Armstrong's Later Years

by Ricky Riccardi

The author describes Louis Armstrong's career after World War II as a popular and an artistic success.

ML419.A75R47 2011

Expressions

*The Chicken Chronicles:
Sitting With the Angels Who
Have Returned with My Memories:
Glorious, Rufus, Gertrude Stein,
Splendor, Hortensia, Agnes of God,
the Gladyses, & Babe: A Memoir*

by Alice Walker

The famed novelist and poet writes about her life and reflections on raising chickens on her California farm.

PS3573.A425Z464 2011

*The Chitlin' Circuit:
And the Road to Rock 'n' Roll*

by Preston Lauterbach

Rock music was created in nightclubs and saloons in black America.

ML3508.L39 2011

*Color Me English: Migration and
Belonging Before and After 9/11*

by Caryl Phillips

The author, a British-Caribbean-Muslim immigrant, writes essays about his personal experiences.

PR9275.S263P47274 2011

*High on the Hog:
A Culinary Journey from Africa to America*

by Jessica B. Harris

Scholar and cookbook author Jessica Harris writes about the culinary history of African Americans.

TX715.H29972 2011

How to Get Out of Your Own Way

by Tyrese Gibson

Actor and musician Tyrese asks questions and then provides answers that led to his personal and professional success.

ML420.T976A3 2011

*I Didn't Ask to Be Born
(But I'm Glad I Was)*

by Bill Cosby

Bill Cosby offers humorous observations from his life.

PN2287.C632A3 2011

The New Black

by Evie Shockley

New poems discuss the changing concepts of blackness.

PS3619.H63N49 2011

*Who's Afraid of Post-Blackness?:
What It Means to Be Black Now*

by Touré

Touré and 105 other notable African Americans discuss their racial identities.

E185.625.T68 2011

*The Word: Black Writers Talk About
the Transformative Power of Reading
and Writing*

Edited by Marita Golden

Interviews with African American novelists and journalists about their love of reading.

PS153.N5W67 2011

History and Contemporary Issues

Elizabeth and Hazel:

Two Women of Little Rock

by David Margolick

Frozen into history by an iconic 1957 photograph of black Elizabeth Eckford trying to enter Little Rock Central High School while white Hazel Bryan angrily heckles her; the two later became friends, and then drifted apart.

F419.L7M37 2011

The End of Anger: A New Generation's Take on Race and Rage

by Ellis Cose

Through extensive and revealing research, journalist Cose writes about race and social justice past, present, and future in the light of the Obama presidency.

E184.A1C67 2011

Harlem: The Four Hundred Year History from Dutch Village to Capital of Black America

by Jonathan Gill

The history of New York's Harlem from its founding by Native Americans to today.

FI28.68.H3G54 2011X

Indigo: In Search of the Color That Seduced the World

by Catherine E. McKinley

The author traveled throughout West Africa in search of indigo-dyed textiles.

GT1389.A358M35 2011

Life Upon These Shores: Looking at African American History, 1513–2008

by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

A comprehensive, illustrated look at African American history.

E185.G27 2011

Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid That Sparked the Civil War

by Tony Horwitz

The history of abolitionist John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and its aftermath.

E451.H77 2011

The Persistence of the Color Line: Racial Politics and the Obama Presidency

by Randall Kennedy

The well-known Massachusetts author and professor of law offers an analysis of the Obama presidency and how it influences black America.

E185.615.K376 2011

Push Has Come to Shove: Getting Our Kids the Education They Deserve – Even If It Means Picking a Fight

by Steve Perry

Activist principal Steve Perry details how parents and kids can improve American schools.

LB2822.82.P47 2011

Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home

by Anita Hill

Law Professor Anita Hill interviews African American women from all socioeconomic groups about home ownership and economic prosperity.

E185.86.H655 2011

Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America

by Melissa V. Harris-Perry

A study of the psychological, economic, and political needs of African American women.

E185.86.H375 2011

Visions of a Better World:

Howard Thurman's Pilgrimage to India and the Origins of African American Nonviolence

by Quinton H. Dixie and Peter Eisenstadt

In 1935, African American minister Howard Thurman traveled to India to meet Mahatma Gandhi.

BX6495.T53D49 2011

Women and Slavery in America: A Documentary History

Edited by Catherine M. Lewis and J. Richard Lewis

A scholarly anthology of letters, photographs, diaries, and news articles illuminates the experiences of female slaves in the United States.

HT1048.W66 2011

FICTION

Hurricane

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Dr. Marie Lavant, the descendant of a voodoo queen, looks into the murders of a couple and their baby.

If Sons, Then Heirs

by Lorene Cary

A woman who abandoned her son years before yearns to reconnect with him.

Mr. Fox

by Helen Oyeyemi

Writer Mr. Fox joins Mary, his muse, in their own fairy tale.

Salvage the Bones

by Jesmyn Ward

A poverty-stricken Mississippi family lives through the two days leading up to Hurricane Katrina.

Silver Sparrow

by Tayari Jones

Two Atlanta teenage girls discover they have the same father.

You Are Free

by Danzy Senna

Eight stories deal with race, identity, and motherhood.

Zone One

by Colson Whitehead

After a zombie pandemic, the army battles the undead in the attempt to resettle Zone One in Lower Manhattan.

Historical

Song of Slaves in the Desert

by Alan Cheuse

This is an epic novel about slaves and slaveholders.

International

Crossbones

by Nuruddin Farah

The third in a trilogy in which Somalia is caught in a religionist grip.

Haiti Noir

Edited by Edwidge Danticat

Stories offer a portrait of Haitian culture and resilience in the face of poverty, violent crime, and political corruption.

Oil on Water

by Helon Habila

A pair of Nigerian reporters is sent to find the kidnapped wife of a British oil executive.

Open City

by Teju Cole

A shattering discovery is revealed to a young Nigerian doctor.

Mystery

Corrupt City

by Tra Verdejo

After an innocent man is murdered, corrupt New York police officer Donald "Lucky" Gibson tries to go straight.

When the Thrill is Gone

by Walter Mosley

McGill's new client fears her billionaire husband is going to kill her.

Urban

All Up in My Business

by Lutishia Lovely

Malcolm is getting tired of his marriage and wants to try out Toussaint's playboy life.

Allure of the Game

by Danielle Santiago

A trio of iron-willed women risks everything to run a Harlem drug cartel.

The Eternal Engagement

by Mary B. Morrison

When Mona won't set a wedding date, a frustrated William turns to Katherine, his high school sweetheart.

Heartbreak of a Hustler's Wife

by Nikki Turner

Someone tries to kill a hustling pastor in the middle of a church service.

Just Wanna Testify

by Pearl Cleage

When the "Too Fine Five" Amazonian, African American supermodels arrive in town, trouble brews.

The Kid

by Sapphire

In this sequel to *Push*, Precious' son is suffering his own life of physical and sexual abuse.

Love, Honor, and Betray

by Kimberla Lawson Roby

Stress on the Reverend Curtis Black's marriage begins when he and his wife have to take in his illegitimate child.

My Blue Suede Shoes: Four Novellas

by Tracy Price-Thompson
and TaRessa Stovall

Blue suede shoes play a role in helping women deal with their abuse in these four novellas.

Power & Beauty:

A Love Story of Life on the Streets

by Clifford "T.I." Harris
with David Ritz

The lives of two orphaned urban teens take very different paths.

Ray of Hope

by Vanessa Davis Griggs

Teen sisters Sahara and Crystal act up until their mother turns them over to their 75-year-old grandmother.

Real Wifey's on the Grind

by Meesha Mink

Cash-strapped Goldie accepts work as the star of a strip club show, leading to a shattering act of violence.

Say Amen, Again

by ReShonda Tate Billingsley

The pastor's wife is eight months pregnant – and so is his mistress – making the sparks fly.

The Black is Booklist is a list of recent books concerning the African American experience. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Black History Month each year.

BLACK IS...

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